

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A caster comprising:

first and second wheels disposed forward and back and an endless wrap-around member wrapped around the first and second wheels, the first and second wheels having common tangents C1 and C2, the common tangent C2 having an angle α with respect to a ground surface,

wherein the wraparound member is a continuous endless belt formed by connecting a plurality of pieces via a plurality of connecting members, the wraparound member having a linear portion A formed along at least the common tangent C2 of the wheels,

wherein each of the pieces is independently formed as a body having a wheel guide section on an inner peripheral side thereof,

the wheel guide section having a connecting section that faces the adjacent pieces of either side thereof, a contacting section on an outer peripheral side each side of the connecting section facing the adjacent pieces, and each end of the connecting section along an axis of rotation of each of the wheels being provided with a guide wall on an inner peripheral side thereof, the two guide walls being separated by a length of the connecting section, and

when viewed in a side view which is a view in a direction of an along the axis of rotation of each of the wheels, each of the contacting sections is seen as a linear section that extends parallel to the contacting sections of the adjacent pieces, and that is perpendicular to

the linear portion A of the common tangent C2 of the wheels,

wherein each of the guide walls ~~on the inner peripheral side of the connecting members~~ wheel guide section includes an inclined surface section,

the inclined surface section being adapted to form a groove that is substantially V-shaped between each of the adjacent pieces, thereby enabling the wraparound member to bend along an outer periphery of each of the first and second wheels, and

since the contacting sections of the adjacent pieces abut respectively against each other along the linear portion A, the linear portion A of the common tangent C2 is capable maintaining a linear condition and is prevented from being dented, so that even when the linear portion A is pushed by a force from an outside, the linear portion A is capable of serving as an anti-sticking plate, and

wherein the plurality of pieces are connected by ~~the plurality of~~ at least one ~~connecting members which extend, respectively, member extending through the connecting portions~~ a connecting hole provided in each of the pieces.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 1, wherein each of the connecting members has a circular cross-section.

4. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 1, wherein each of the pieces is provided with a tire section on the outer peripheral side of the body and a wheel guide section into which outer peripheral sections of the first and second wheels are fitted.

5. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 4, wherein the tire section and the wheel guide section are respectively formed as separate bodies.

6. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 1, wherein the first and second wheels overlap each other when viewed from a direction perpendicular to the ground surface.

7. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 1, wherein the first and second wheels have different diameters and a plurality of wheels with a smaller diameter is provided in the direction of the axis of rotation.

8. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The caster according to claim 1, wherein each of the pieces of the wraparound member is provided with a tire section on the outer peripheral side and a wheel guide section on the inner peripheral side, the tire section is ~~formed~~ being formed as the continuous endless belt, and the guide walls of the wheel guide section is ~~provided~~ being adapted to engage outer peripheral sections of the first and second wheels and is combined with the tire section to form each of the pieces.

9. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The caster according to claim 1, wherein each of the pieces of the wraparound member is provided with a tire section on the outer peripheral side and a wheel guide section on the inner peripheral side, the guide walls of the wheel guide section being provided to engage outer peripheral sections of the first and second wheels ~~and formed as the continuous endless belt, and each of the pieces is formed by the tire section and the wheel guide section.~~

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 1, wherein the first wheel is provided in such a manner a diameter thereof is $1/5$ or less of that of the second wheel and its thickness is substantially the same as that of the second wheel, wherein the first wheel is disposed close to an outer periphery of the second wheel so that the first and second wheels are disposed on the same straight line when viewed from the direction of each thickness.

12. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 11, wherein a plurality of first wheels is provided along the outer periphery of the second wheel.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The caster according to claim 1, wherein each of the pieces is provided with a plurality of connecting holes ~~protrusions on opposite sides thereof that project toward the adjacent piece on both sides thereof,~~

~~wherein each of the protrusions is provided with a through hole that penetrates in the direction parallel to the axis of rotation,~~

~~wherein the protrusions of each piece overlap the protrusions of the adjacent pieces in the direction parallel to the axis of rotation of the wheels, in a manner such that the through holes in adjacent pieces are aligned, and~~

the connecting member is a plurality of connecting members are adapted to pass, respectively, through each of the ~~through holes in the overlapping protrusion~~ connecting holes, in order to connect the adjacent pieces together, thereby forming the continuous endless belt.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The caster according to claim 1, wherein the connecting ~~members extend~~ member extends in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the axis of rotation of each of the wheel.

17. (Withdrawn) The caster according to claim 14, wherein the connecting members extend in a direction parallel to the direction of the axis of rotation of each of the wheel.